

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY
INFO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 128555

EXDIS, PEKING FOR ASS'T SEC'Y HOLBROOKE AND GLEYSTEN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, TW, US

SUBJECT: NEWSOM-SHEN MEETING

1. ROC AMBASSADOR SHEN CALLED ON UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM ON MAY 19 UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO LODGE A STRONG COMPLAINT OVER THE COINCIDENCE OF DR. BRZEZINSKI'S ARRIVAL IN PEKING AND PRESIDENT-ELECT CHIANG'S INAUGURAL IN TAIPEI. SHEN SAID SOME IN TAIPEI SUSPECT COINCIDENCE WAS ARRANGED INTENTIONALLY TO SHOW ROC WHERE IT STOOD IN USC'S EYES, BUT THAT ROC GOVERNMENT DID NOT SHARE THESE SUSPICIONS. WHILE SHEN HAD BEEN TOLD INFORMALLY THAT TIMING WAS INADVERTENT, ROC GOVERNMENT HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN ANY OFFICIAL EXPLANATION.

2. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM REPLIED THAT HE TOOK NOTE OF
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SHEN'S INSTRUCTIONS AND ROC FEELINGS ON THIS ISSUE. HE SAID HE COULD OFFICIALLY ASSURE ROC THAT COINCIDENCE WAS INADVERTENT AND NOT INTENDED TO EMBARRASS ROC OR TO SEND ANY POLITICAL MESSAGES. GIVEN THE MANY COMPETING DEMANDS ON DR. BRZEZINSKI'S TIME, IT HAD BEEN VERY DIFFICULT TO SCHEDULE A PERIOD WHEN HE COULD BE ABSENT FROM WASHINGTON.

3. SHEN THEN SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN A SLOW BUT STEADY
ERROSION IN US-ROC RELATIONS DURING RECENT YEARS. HE
COMPLAINED ABOUT VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S NOT VISITING

TAIWAN DURING HIS TRIP TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, NOTED ROC OPPO-
SITION TO SENIOR US OFFICIALS VISITING PEKING, AND SAID
THAT WHILE BRZEZINSKI WOULD BE STOPPING IN BOTH TOKYO AND
SEOUL, IT DID NOT APPEAR THAT ANYONE FROM HIS PARTY WOULD
COME TO TAIPEI. SHEN STATED THAT, DESPITE ROC'S WELCOME,
NO CABINET RANK US OFFICIALS HAD VISITED TAIWAN FOR
SEVERAL YEARS, COMMENTING THAT TAIWAN WAS BEGINNING TO
SUSPECT IT MUST BE A LEPER'S ISLAND.

4. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM SAID THAT BRZEZINSKI TRIP WAS
PART OF A TRAIN OF EXCHANGES THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT
THE ROC HAD COME TO ANTICIPATE EVER SINCE PRESIDENT NIXON'S
VISIT TO CHINA. WE VALUE AND WISH TO CONTINUE OUR GOOD
RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN AND WE CONTINUE TO TAKE TAIWAN INTO
ACCOUNT. OUR ECONOMIC RELATIONS HAVE PROSPERED, AND THE
US CONTINUES TO SELL THE ROC WEAPONS FOR ITS DEFENSE.
NEWSOM NOTED THAT SHEN WOULD BE MEETING WITH BRZEZINSKI
AFTER THE LATTER'S RETURN FROM PEKING.

5. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR
WHAT ROC HAD DONE FOR INDOCHINA REFUGEES. HE NOTED OUR
BELIEF THAT REFUGEE SITUATION WAS RAPIDLY WORSENING AND
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THAT THE PROPORTION OF ETHNIC-CHINESE AMONG BOAT REFUGEES
HAD INCREASED TO ABOUT 60 PERCENT. SHEN SAID IT SEEMED
THAT SRV WAS TRYING TO FORCE ETHNIC-CHINESE OUT AS PART
OF ITS PROGRAM TO REFORM SOUTH VIETNAM'S SOCIETY. HE
SAID THE ROC WOULD DO AS MUCH AS IT COULD FOR REFUGEES,
BUT THAT ITS RESOURCES WERE LIMITED, THAT RESETTLEMENT
WAS A DIFFICULT PROCESS AND THAT THERE WAS A SECURITY
THREAT FROM COMMUNIST AGENTS THAT HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO
ACCOUNT. VANCE

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